(d) Development of small scale industry is being particularly encouraged. Approvals for a number of items have been decentralised to the level of State Directorate industries. Investment limit for this sector has been revised to Rs. 35 lakhs and that for ancillary units to Rs. 45 lakhs.

(e) In order to achieve economies of scale in certain key areas, certain components which were reserved for small scale sector have been dereserved.

(f) In almost all areas of electronics, excluding consumer electronics, MRTP companies have been exempt from clearance under Section 21 and 22 of MRTP Act.

(g) The private sector units are permitted to manufacture telephones, EPABX, teleprinters, facsimile equipment, data communication terminals, etc. Other telecommunication items can also be taken up by the private sector with Central|State Government participation of atleast 5 per cent equity shares.

(h) For computer industry, the emphasis is on the manufacture of computers based on latest technology at prices comparable with international level and progressively increasing indigenisation consistent with economic viability.

(i) Import duty on raw materials, announced to encourage production and export of software.

(j) Import duty on raw materials, components and capital equipment has been reduced. For component industry, the duty on raw materials, parts and semifinished goods have been rationalised.

(k) The import policy has been rationalised with a view to increase production.

(l) Government is promoting appropriate applications of electronnics to improve productivity, quality, safety and quality of services.

Parity of ED Employees regarding Age and Qualification with the Regular Employees

2665. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether E.D. employees are treated at par with regular employees in the matter of age and qualifications for promotion to Group D, Postman and Clerical cadre; and

(b) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRDHAR GOMANGO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Extra Departmental employees are not whole-time employees. They are expected to have an indepndent income, and they perform duties for the Department of Posts for a lesser period of time per day than regular employees. The conditions of service for E.D. employees are also less rigorous than those for regular employees.

Representations for Promotion in Department of Electronics

2666. SHRI SHANKARRAO NARAYANRAO DESHMUKH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of representations received by Government through the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes| Scheduled Tribes during the period from 1st January to 1st July, 1989 regarding promotion of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes in the Department of Electronics; and

(b) what is the date of receipt of each representation and action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE

(SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) One representation regarding promotion of a Scheduled Caste employees was received from office of the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes|Scheduled Tribes during the period from 1-1-1989 to 1-7-1989.

(b) The date of receipt of representation is 19-6-1989. The representation is under examination.

Demands of All India Ex-Servicemen's Welfare Association

2667. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the All India Ex-Servicemen's Welfare Association has demanded rank for rank equal pension, employment upto 58 years, re-employment of ex-servicemen and resettlement of ex-servicemen in self employment schemes; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government's reaction to specific demands referred to in Part (a) of the Question is as follows:—

(i) *Rank for Rank Pension:* This demand was considered by the 4th Central Pay Commission. The 4th Pay Commission did not find justification for conceding this demand. The recommendation of the Commission was accepted by the Government.

(ii) *Assured employment upto 58 years of age:* The High Level Committee on problems of Ex-Servicemen had recommended that this demand should be studied and modalities worked out by Government. Accordingly, this demand was studied by a Committee in the Department of Personnel and Training, which after examining all aspects of the proposal, did not find it to be a practicable.

(iii) *Self-employment schemes:* For helping ex-servicemen to take to self-employment, new schemes namely Self Employment for Ex-Servicemen-I and SEMFEX-II have been started.

Free Medical Facilities for Rural Poor

2668. SHRI RATNA BAHADUR RAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any Government national scheme/planning for rendering free medical facilities to the rural poor;

(b) if so, what is the number of persons covered by this scheme; and

(c) whether Government have any programme to bring the whole population under the Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RAFIQUB ALAM): (a) to (c) Primary Health Care facilities for the rural population are provided by the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations through a network of Institutions set up under the State Sector Minimum Needs Programme. The entire rural population is sought to be covered by the end of the 7th Plan under Primary Health Care System. Upto 31-3-89, 121767 Sub-Cenrets, 19139 Primary Health Centres and 1665 Community Health Centres are reported to have been set up in different States and Union Territories. While a portion of the expenditure on Sub-Centres is provided as Central assistance to States in the shape of Rs. 2,000|- per annum per sub-centre for essential drugs and medicines, upto Rs. 1,000 per annum as rent (if no Govt. building is available) and the salary of the Female Health Worker and a Voluntary Worker, the rest of the expenditure on Community Health Centres, Primary Health Centres and Sub-Centres is met from the State Sector Budget.